

දුරකථන) 2698475
தொலைபேசி) 2698507
Telephone)

ෆැක්ස්) 2692913
பெக்ஸ்) 2694860
Fax)

විද්‍යුත් තැපෑල)
மின்னஞ்சல் முகவரி) postmaster@health.gov.lk
e-mail)

වෙබ් අඩවිය)
இணையத்தளம்) www.health.gov.lk
website)

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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

To All Directors of hospitals
All Consultant Respiratory Physicians
All District Tuberculosis Control Officers

Screening of TB patients for HIV /AIDS

Tuberculosis and HIV infection have been closely linked since the beginning of the HIV epidemic. HIV infection has contributed to a dramatic increase of TB incidence around the globe and accounts more than 300,000 deaths among TB patients. Effective management of HIV/TB co infection reduces the morbidity and mortality among people affected with the dual infection. Reported incidence of HIV/ TB co infection is low in Sri Lanka at present. Annually around 9000 TB cases are detected in the country. However the number of TB patients tested for HIV is not optimum. As a result patients with dual infection are deprived of the available medical benefits.

In order to manage the TB/ HIV co infection effectively and to minimize morbidity and mortality, WHO has set two top priorities:

- to increase coverage of ART for HIV-positive TB patients towards the 100% target
- Expanded coverage of TB preventive treatment among people living with HIV

In order to detect TB patients infected with HIV early, WHO recommends Provider Initiates HIV Testing (PIT) for all patients diagnosed with TB. This strategy ensures voluntary uptake of HIV testing by TB patients with adequate information.

It was noted that though all the HIV +ve patients are expected to be screened for TB, coverage of HIV screening among TB patients was not adequate.

At the National AIDS Committee meeting held on 14-October 2013 it was decided to increase the coverage of HIV screening among TB patients up to 100% by end of year 2014.

Please take necessary actions to screen all the TB patients diagnosed/ registered at your institutions.

Dr. P. G. Mahipala
Director General of Health Services

Dr. P. G. Mahipala
Director General of Health Services
Ministry of Health,
385, "Suwasiripaya".
Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha.
Colombo 10.

Cc ; DDG (PHS)

Provincial Directors of Health Service,

Director – National STD/AIDS Control Programme
Regional Directors of Health Service